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WESTERN HEMISPHERE

Chile Changes Governments

Salvador Allende will become president of Chile on 3 November, having received overwhelming congressional confirmation of his 36.3-percent plurality in the presidential election last month. Official delegations being named to attend his inauguration indicate a noncommittal attitude by most countries toward the prospect of a Marxist government.

The full support given Allende in the congressional runoff by the Christian Democrats indicates that initially he probably will meet with little parliamentary opposition to the far-reaching programs he has promised to put into effect swiftly. The "building of socialism" that Allende has predicted, however, may be affected by economic considerations and by serious differences among members of his coalition. In the eight weeks since Allende's narrow electoral victory, there appears to have been little significant progress in coordinating the plans and reconciling the ambitions within the coalition.

The struggle over the naming of a cabinet has revealed and exacerbated these differences. Allende's own extremist Socialists have held out for top ministries, to the dismay of the Communists and the other contenders. Socialist control of the posts they demand would give the government a more radical cast than the low-key, non-provocative beginning the Communists and perhaps Allende [REDACTED] had envisioned.

The Chilean Foreign Ministry expects more than 60 official delegations at the inauguration, and the Communists claim that 90 countries will be represented. The ranks will be swelled by 42 labor delegations from such countries as North Korea and East Germany and an extensive list of

artistic notables invited by Allende's UP coalition. Although the North Vietnamese delegation will be "unofficial," it [REDACTED] will be headed by the vice minister of foreign affairs. The five-man Soviet delegation will be led by the vice president of the presidium of the Supreme Soviet. OAS Secretary General Galo Plaza's position that he will attend the ceremonies in order to avoid appearing to discriminate against Allende is shared by some Latin American governments. Others in the hemisphere and some Western European countries want to send "proper" delegations in the hope of putting pressure on Allende to "resist radicalization." Chile's most important neighbor, Argentina, is deeply worried over the implications of Allende's government but wishes to appear friendly. It will send a cabinet minister, as will several other countries including Mexico, Peru, Colombia, Uruguay, Venezuela, and Ecuador. Brazil and Paraguay, which do not hide their distaste for Allende, will be represented only by their ambassadors. Cuba is reportedly sending a 16-man delegation headed by the brother of President Dorticos.

The assassination of Army Commander in Chief Schneider has practically ended the possibility of any military action against Allende. It apparently has unified the armed forces behind acceptance and support of him as constitutional president in a way that few other developments could have done. It also has strengthened Allende's position with the shocked Chilean public; leftist propaganda has been warning incessantly that rightists would make some desperate move to avert Allende's assumption of the presidency and has already claimed Schneider is a martyr of the UP. [REDACTED]

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